Robbins, Joanne

From: Veronica Penn [vpenn@ehsd.cccounty.us]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 8:40 AM
To: Veronica Penn
Subject: FW: Outreach - Oppose Adult Protective Services cuts!
Importance: High

This message is sent on behalf of Kitty Barnes

Protect Our Most Vulnerable Citizens!

The Governor is proposing cuts to the Adult Protective Services Program that would eliminate $11.4 million in state and federally-funded services and would result in the loss of 75 APS social workers statewide from a program that is already critically under-funded. The result would leave thousands of vulnerable seniors and dependent adults in abusive and life-threatening situations!

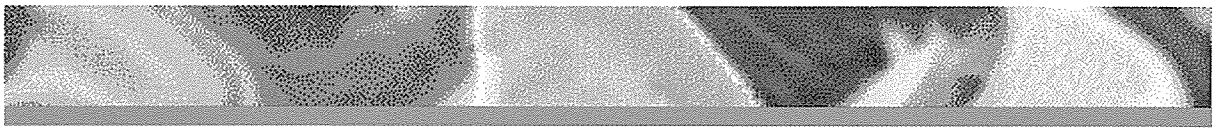
The Advisory Council on Aging has consistently taken strong positions to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Please join with us in opposing these cuts by writing your own letter of opposition!

(Sample letters are attached.)

Thank you!

Kitty Barnes, Consultant
Area Agency on Aging, Contra Costa County
P.O. Box 6781, Concord, CA 94524
(925) 685-3795 - Kit925@astound.net



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<Date>

The Honorable Patty Berg
Chair, Subcommittee No. 1
Assembly Budget Committee
Room 446, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Denise Ducheny, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Room 5053, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblywoman Berg and Senator Ducheny:

Re: Proposed Adult Protective Services Cuts – OPPOSE

<INSERT YOUR AGENCY HERE> is opposed to the Governor's proposed cuts to the Adult Protective Services Program. These cuts would eliminate $11.4 million in state and federally-funded services and would result in the loss of 75 APS social workers statewide from a program that is already critically under-funded. The result would leave thousands of vulnerable seniors and dependent adults in abusive and life-threatening situations.

These cuts will place thousands of vulnerable adults in harm's way. The loss of these social workers will mean that thousands of fewer incidents of abuse and neglect will be investigated statewide, response times will increase, more cases will be triaged, and cases will be closed earlier. At-risk vulnerable adults – whom our programs often assist before situations become life-threatening – will go without services. Only the most egregious incidents of abuse and neglect will receive services, and for those served by APS, the likely result will be increased recidivism. Our inability to respond fully to all reports of abuse and neglect will leave elders and dependent adults more vulnerable to physical and emotional injury and neglect, even death. Studies show that elder abuse victims are 3.1 times more likely to die than the average senior.

These cuts come at a time when our county agencies are receiving and responding to more and more reports of abuse and neglect. <INSERT INFORMATION ON LOCAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST ABUSED AND NEGLECTED SENIORS/DEPENDENT ADULTS>. Cuts to our local program at a time when California's aging population is growing would severely limit services to this vulnerable population. <INSERT HOW THE CUTS WILL UNDERMINE LOCAL EFFORTS TO SERVE THIS POPULATION.>

The proposed cuts to APS will cost the state, and our society, more in the long run. These individuals will likely be seen again, when conditions worsen, by APS or by another system such as law enforcement, public conservators/guardians and emergency responders such as paramedics and emergency rooms. Without timely services, abused and neglected seniors will face longer hospitalization stays and placement into nursing homes.

APS is a critical safety net program and the only state program that responds to reports of abuse and neglect of this population 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These cuts are ill-advised and will result in greater harm to seniors and dependent adults.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to reject cuts to the Adult Protective Services program, and to exempt California's abused and neglected seniors and dependent adults from these harmful reductions.

Sincerely,

<NAME>
<TITLE>
<ORGANIZATION>

Cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
<*Your Senator and Assembly Members (if not on the Budget Committee/Subcommittee)*>
CWDA